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IN HOT VITAMINWATER

This is the cap on a Coca-Cola-owned Vitaminwater bottle purchased by Calgary resident Braeden Rossell on Tuesday. It's the second of its kind to surface in Alberta with the world 'RETARD' printed on it in recent months. The beverage giant apologized on Wednesday once again for the gaffe.
See story, page 4. COURTESY BRAEDEN ROSSELL

Public-school parents cover costs for bus-fee dodgers

Classroom hit. Noon-hour charge shortfall could cost teachers

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Parents refusing to fork over fees for public-school busing and noon-hour supervision are costing families that do pay more, and also potentially draining classroom resources.

The Calgary Board of Education revealed to trustees this month that so-called "bad debt" for fees is taking a toll on both the organization and household budgets.

In 2012-13, roughly one in 25 students riding the bus didn't have their fees covered by a guardian. In turn, that outstanding amount cost parents that did pay about $9.50 per child.

Brad Grundy, the CBE's chief financial officer, said some families may not be dodging the fees but simply unable to afford them and unaware of the system's waiver offering.

He did, however, concede some parents knowingly refuse to pony up the dough and said they are "placing an additional burden on others."

Public consultation

- Brad Grundy, the CBE's chief financial officer, noted that a public consultation found general disfavour with paying the fees in the first place. This school year, students riding yellow buses are charged $295, with the exception of kindergarteners, who pay $215.
- Elementary-school noon-hour fees, meanwhile, run anywhere from $135-220 depending on whether the child rides the bus and how many days they attend classes per week.

"Some people are making a statement that government should fund education and not them," Grundy said.

"Fair enough, if that's the case and they refuse to pay, we would get to the point where we'd write that off."

As for noon-hour fees, the board budgeted that a little more than $1 million wouldn't be paid — or roughly one in five students — and covered that cost out of its budget. But Grundy said as the system phases in the supervision charge — next year, parents will pay what is considered the full amount — he anticipates the CBE's subsidy will shrink.

"I look at that as 10 teachers," he said of how the $1-million debt would be covered. "I think we should be prioritizing teachers in the classroom, which is why I'm a supporter of those who use the service pay for the service."

Orlean Muirhead has long refused to pay her kids' fees, yet they still ride the bus and eat lunch at school. She said it's a matter of principle, given that her kids are registered in what's considered "public education."

"To say this is the parent's fault ... you can just as easily say it's because the province isn't covering this service," she said.

Mother Veronica Crane does reluctantly pay the school fees for her two kids. She said "it's not fair" that she's paying an extra $19 to cover the debts caused by others, but added there's no other mechanism for parents like Muirhead to appeal the charges.

"They need to think about other people as well," Crane said of the fee dodgers. "I understand their concern but their argument is taking it to the wrong places."

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‘Shocked’. Mother who threw her infants in the garbage sentenced

A woman who tossed three of her newborns into the garbage has been given 18 more months in jail and faces three years of probation.

Meredith Borowiec, 32, gave birth in 2008 and 2009, but the babies’ bodies have never been found. A third child born in 2010 survived when the baby’s father unknowingly helped pull the infant out of a neighbourhood trash bin in Calgary after a passerby heard cries.

Borowiec was convicted on two counts of infanticide and one count of aggravated assault.

“You’ve shocked the community and you’ve shamed yourself. This is a terrible case,” Justice Peter McIntyre said during sentencing Wednesday. But McIntyre suggested there were other factors to consider. “The sentence must reflect sentencing principles, but all three incidents happened when your mind was disturbed after giving birth,” he said. “You co-operated with police. Without your admission to police about the first babies, there would be no case against you.”

The judge also noted that Borowiec has shown “genuine remorse.” The 18 months are on top of time she has already spent in custody. The Crown wanted Borowiec to spend eight to nine years behind bars, while her defence lawyer said she shouldn’t spend any more time in jail.

Borowiec gave birth to a fourth baby while in police custody in July 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speculation over Flames logo in arena concept vid

Folding roof. Animation depicts roof design that can collapse inward to turn large arena into smaller concert venue

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Speculation is running rampant that the Calgary Flames are working with a leading international sports-architecture firm on a new home for the team after a video depicting a futuristic arena design aired on a popular science TV show.

A recent broadcast of Daily Planet on The Discovery Channel featured an animation of a “transforming stadium” concept as part of a segment on new construction techniques.

The animation depicts the interior of a hockey arena with a large Calgary Flames logo at centre ice.

At points, the simulated Jumbotron above the ice also appears to show video of Calgary Flames players.

The broadcast credits the animation to Populous, an architecture firm that has designed eight current NHL arenas, including the Consol Energy Centre in Pittsburgh and Pepsi Center in Denver.

A screenshot of the animation that appears to depict a Calgary Flames logo at centre ice and Flames players on the simulated Jumbotron. SCEENSHOT/THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL/POPULOUS

Populous spokesperson Annie Hellweg told Metro the animation was a “preliminary concept” and “wasn’t necessarily particular to plans in any specific area.”

When asked why a Flames logo, in particular, would be used in the animation, Hellweg said she would look into it further, but then did not return subsequent calls Wednesday.

Calgary Flames vice-president communications Peter Hanlon said only team president Ken King could comment on the matter, but King was not available Wednesday.

Kent Wilson of FlamesNation.ca said the inclusion of the trademarked Flames logo in the animation is telling.

“I work in marketing and it wouldn’t surprise me at all if that was a presentation they were working on with the Flames,” he said. “Usually you brand things like that with the brand you’re working with.”

WITH FILES FROM BRYAN WEISMILLER

Leaked?

If this animation does represent a partnership between the Calgary Flames and Populous, it wouldn’t be the first time guarded information leaked out digitally this season.

- The Flames had intended to reveal the team’s alternate jersey for the current season on Oct. 27, 2013, but the design came out ahead of time after gamers discovered it was part of a roster update for EA Sports’ NHL 14, released weeks earlier.

Déjà vu: Vitaminwater drinker told to 'PONDER RETARDS'

Beverage giant apologizes — again. English-French word combinations on Vitaminwater products part of a promotion

Coca-Cola is facing a splash of criticism for once again having an "offensive" term printed on the bottle cap of a Vitaminwater container — only this time the controversy has surfaced in Calgary.

Thousands lashed out at the beverage giant in September when Metro was first to report that Edmonton-based photographer Blake Loates had unscrewed a Vitaminwater cap to find the words "YOU RETARD" printed on it. Making the matter worse was that Loates' younger sister had been diagnosed with both cerebral palsy and autism.

On Tuesday, Calgary resident Braeden Rossell popped the lid on a lemonade Vitaminwater to find the words "PONDER RETARDS" written on the cap.

Coca-Cola has maintained the words were printed by a machine as part of a promotion to showcase Canada's multiculturalism by pairing an English word with a French one on each bottle cap. The word "retards" in French implies lateness or a delay.

But Rossell said the error shouldn't have happened once, let alone twice.

"There's no mention on the bottle of this promotional thing," she told Metro exclusively Wednesday. "So, not knowing of the previous story, it's something you're going to take offence to. Even knowing about that now, it's still offensive."

Coca-Cola did apologize to the Loates family after the initial gaffe in September and said while it did inspect all the bottle caps before shipping, they were only reviewed in the French context.

In numbers

$100K

Coca-Cola says it has donated $100,000 to charity to make amends after the word "YOU RETARD" surfaced on a Vitaminwater bottle cap.

The company maintained Wednesday it had destroyed any of the caps on Vitaminwater bottles yet to be sent after the Loates family lodged a complaint, but spokesperson Shannon Denny said Coca-Cola was always aware more unfortunate word combinations could surface.

"The bottle that you're speaking of would be one that had already been produced and was just in the market from that point on," Denny said in an interview Wednesday, adding, "Who knows how many unfortunate combinations of words there may be out there … we made the actions that we did to apologize for that and to make a couple of donations to recognize we were not be able to get all of the bottles out of market — and some may still be out in the market."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Edmonton's Blake Loates is seen with the "YOU RETARD" Vitaminwater bottle cap that stirred a great deal of controversy in September. A second offensive cap has surfaced in Calgary with the words "PONDER RETARDS" written on it. METRO FILE

Cat, husky deaths related, humane society says

This husky was found dead in an alley in the 200 block of 99 Avenue SE.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Calgary Humane Society investigators say they're now treating the discovery of a husky and kitten dead in a southeast alley with tape over their mouths as related cases.

As first reported by Metro, a search warrant was executed on a city home Friday and the society said Wednesday it had sent away items for forensic analysis.

Head of cruelty investigations Brad Nichols said it could take weeks for the results of the analysis.

"It's not like CSI on TV where you have these unrealistic expectations," he said.

Nichols said the home searched was occupied but he declined to specify how many people live there.

The issued warrant marks the first major development in a case that has sparked outcry from thousands who've staged rallies, donated to rewards and turned online to seek out other cases of animal abuse in Alberta.

Humane society investigators have said previously that at least the husky died of starvation and both animals suffered fracture wounds, some of which were relatively new, while others appeared to have healed over time.

The case has sparked nationwide calls for stricter animal abuse laws. Willow Park remains the epicentre for much of the frustration, as it was where both animals were found. Area resident John Wutzke reflected that feeling, saying his neighbours are anxious for resoultion.

"If I could prove (who did) it, I'd go get him myself," he said. "It's just that simple."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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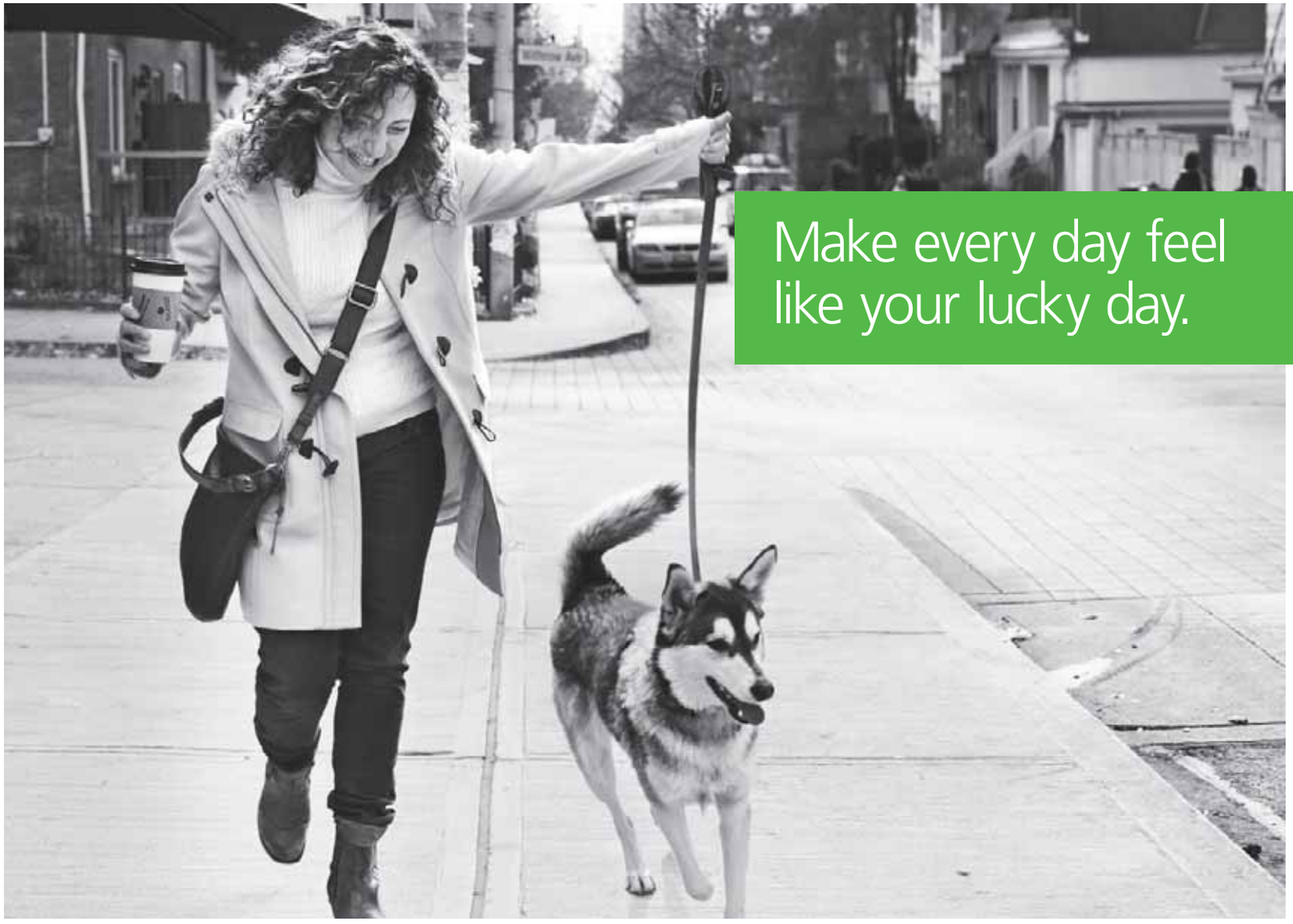

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AHS official administrator Dr. John Cowell says new changes will bring Alberta in line with national measures and make comparisons with other provinces' health systems easier. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

AHS makes changes to frequency, metrics of performance reports

Something to hide?
Wildrose critic calls adjustments 'disgusting'

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Alberta Health Services is changing the way it measures its own performance, in a move administrators say will bring its reporting in line with national standards. But critics say it is merely moving its targets after years of failing to hit them.

In the past, AHS published quarterly reports with dozens of performance measures, but the last one came out in June.

AHS official administrator Dr. John Cowell said Wednesday the next set of data won't be released until July, and that report will only include 16 measures, many of which will be calculated differently, too.

For example, AHS used to measure how many in-patients were admitted from the ER within eight hours, with a target of 75 per cent. The actual result in 2012-13 at the 16 busiest ERs was just 45 per cent.

Now, AHS will instead measure the median time of admission from the ER, with a target of 8.5 hours. The actual performance was 8.7 hours at those same 16 sites.

"This is not reporting in a different way to look better," Cowell said. "We're reporting in a different way because, after extensive consultation … we had to choose a measure that was comparable and acceptable."

Wildrose seniors critic Kerry Towle, however, called the changes "disgusting" and "mind-boggling."

"Why are they trying to water down all of the performance benchmarks, other than they're not able to meet the performance benchmarks?" she said.

Health spending

$17B

The total health spending in Alberta's current budget year is $17 billion.

Condos and apartments

City to mandate recycling service

City councillors gave a preliminary nod Wednesday to a plan that would make recycling service mandatory for condo and apartment buildings starting in 2016.

Members of the utilities and corporate services committee unanimously approved the idea after hearing positive feedback from private recycling contractors who would likely be among those hauling the material away from multi-family dwellings.

City staff are to draw up a specific bylaw and bring it to council by September.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Foster care. Province to allow reporting of more details of child deaths

Alberta's human services minister says the government will expand what can be reported about the deaths of children in care.

Manmeet Bhullar says the changes will be made regardless of recommendations that come out of a discussion on the topic this week.

Experts have been talking about how to balance the needs of privacy while also informing the public about how and why children die in care.

Media reports late last year detailed how the province has used privacy rules to avoid revealing the deaths of 89 children in foster care since 1999.

The laws currently prevent anyone from speaking publicly.

Critics say those laws can be abused to cover up government negligence or neglect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health spending

89

The number of foster child deaths since 1999, according to media reports.

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Dusk. Zoo hopes for red panda love connection

He's a sweet-natured guy with a bushy, cinnamon-coloured tail and a refined taste for bamboo.

He's Dusk, the Calgary Zoo's new red panda — and officials hope he catches the eye of stunning bachelorette Malika.

"Malika's had successful litters a few times now so we're hoping she'll have another — maybe this year," spokeswoman Laurie Skene said. "It's hard to say; it may take them a while to get used to one another."

On Wednesday, the zoo announced Dusk was on loan from Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Dusk arrived around Christmastime and is fitting in nicely so far, said Skene, adding he's in friendly company.

"Malika is pretty easygoing," she said. "They're all pretty sweet-natured."

The Calgary Zoo tweeted this picture of a red panda, though keepers couldn't confirm whether it was Dusk or his female colleague, Malika. CONTRIBUTED

The ring-tailed creatures are an endangered species native to the Himalayan mountain regions of Asia.

Since 2007, five Calgary-born pups have grown up and moved on to other zoos in Quebec, Houston, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, New York and Japan.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Saturn. Metro reader helps recover lost car

Two-time victims of vehicle theft, a Calgary couple are thanking a keen-eyed Metro reader who spotted one of their stolen rides Wednesday.

The story detailing the thefts of both Caleb Cottier's truck and Crystal Robinson's Saturn from the front of their Varsity-area home first appeared online Tuesday night.

When Robinson awoke, she'd received an email from a Bowness-area resident who believed he'd seen her 2011 Saturn parked along 39 Street NW.

"He said, 'Hey, I was reading the morning paper — your car's right outside,'" Robinson said. "He just made the connection. It was amazing. It's definitely mine, no question."

Both Robinson and Cottier are mature students and live on a fixed income. Cottier's 2009 Ford F-250 was stolen first on Nov. 28 and later surfaced abandoned in another part of town. It was severely damaged and had to be written off.

But Robinson said her Saturn, stolen from the same spot Jan. 17, only suffered cosmetic damage to the interior console and the backseat had been torn.

"Other than that, it's still drivable," she said.

Robinson's school textbooks, which were inside the car when it was stolen, were not recovered.

Tips can be provided to police by calling 403-266-1234 or by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

CBE to transfer charter-school sites

Trustee hesitation. Move could hinder flexibility to house growing number of public-school students

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary public-school trustees have agreed with a provincial government request to turn over property rights for five buildings currently housing charter students despite the organization coping with dwindling classroom space and an anticipated surge in enrolment lotteries this year.

The transfers could be just the first batch of their kind, as Education Minister Jeff Johnson indicated in a Dec. 30 letter to CBE trustee chair Sheila Taylor that he would like to see all 14 Calgary charter schools given exclusive ownership of their sites, adding that he hopes to amend the provincial Municipal Government Act to allow such a move.

Trustee approval of the transfer didn't come without concerns from certain board members, who heeded a warning from CBE administration that losing 14 facilities over the long term could "potentially inhibit" flexibility for housing a rapidly growing public-student population.

Publicly elected representatives did eventually approve the transfers, "subject to the provision of new school facilities, as requested in the 2014-17 capital plan, being made available for CBE students."

Calgary Board of Education trustee Joy Bowen-Eyre, seen in this photo taken earlier this month, has expressed concerns about how charter schools operate in the past. Her main contention is that some sites restrict enrolment based on certain entrance standards. METRO FILE

Charter-school breakdown

- Of the 14 charter schools operating in CBE buildings, five are run by Foundations for the Future Charter Academy; two each are run by the Calgary Girls' School Society, Westmount Charter School, Calgary Arts Academy Society and Almadina Language Charter Schools; and one site is operated by Connect Charter School.
- According to a report, CBE earnings from charters have declined in recent years as the province directed that any site leases due for renewal be reissued at a cost of $1. In 2010-11, the CBE netted $5.9 million from charter leases, while it only earned a little under $2 million in 2013-14.

Trustee Joy Bowen-Eyre proposed the motion.

"Basically, we said, 'We'll give you the five if you give us the 25,'" she said, referring to the CBE's expressed need for 25 new facilities in the coming year. "It seems odd to me that we're giving away (schools). If we give all 14 away, that means we're giving 8,000 spaces away when we need 25 schools."

But the province has insisted it's well on its way to meeting the commitment by Premier Alison Redford to build 50 new schools and modernize another 70 across Alberta.

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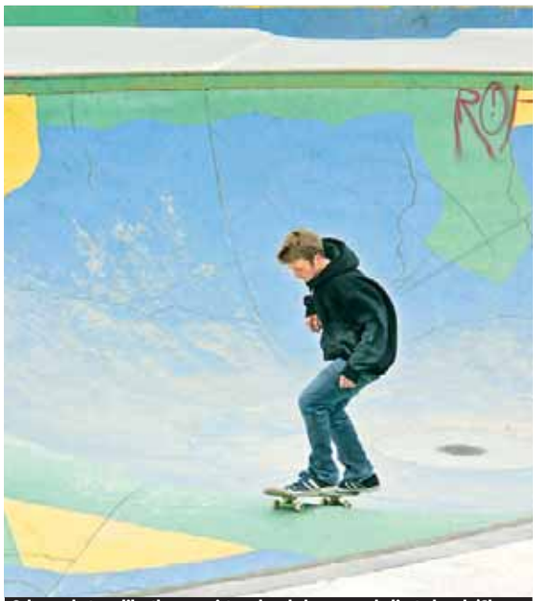

Calgary skaters, like the one pictured, only have one dedicated park (Shaw Millennium Park) to hone their skills. METRO FILE

Calgary sports advocate questions new skate parks

'Huge draw'? This week parks and recreation unveiled a dozen potential locations for new facilities

BRYAN WEISMILLER
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Grand plans to build dozens of skateboarding parks in Calgary are grinding the nerves of a sports advocacy group.

With the city rolling out a new blueprint to build at least a couple of new skate sites in 2014, the head of Sport Calgary questioned whether the plan only helps a niche group or addresses a citywide recreational crunch.

Either way, Tim Bjornson said the decade-long plan to add up to 50 more parks needs to be "scrutinized even more" and argued it should be reviewed on a regular basis.

"There's a legitimate need for offering skateboard parks," said Bjornson, executive director with the city-sponsored organized sports group.

"But ... we need to take care that we're investing the money wisely."

Long-term strategy

Between two and four skateboarding parks could be built in 2014 as part of the first phase of a long-term strategy, according to city officials.

Parks and recreation department officials unveiled a dozen potential locations for the new facilities this week. The projects vary in size and could cost anywhere between $200,000 and half-a-million bucks.

Asked about the need for more recreational facilities, Bjornson also stopped short of endorsing skateboarding as a sport.

"As a sport it doesn't really have that solid competition stream," he said, adding kick flippers may be just as pleased pulling tricks on their driveway.

Superintendent of Sport Development Greg Dycke contended there's a need to stop four-wheeled enthusiasts from illegally riding on public streets.

Dycke added the new facilities will be a "huge draw."

"Ultimately skateboarders want facilities that are designed for them," he said. "That pulls them to the parks."

Lethbridge

Company says homophobia forcing it to close queer theatre space

Operators of a queer theatre space in Lethbridge say homophobic neighbours have made it "impossible" to continue hosting performances there.

According to an online post from Theatre Outre, the organization is working to move its Bordello performance venue out of the historic McFarland Building in the southern Alberta city.

"Two hateful, hurtful and defamatory emails were sent to our landlord questioning our integrity based on moral grounds and challenging our coexisting alongside their businesses," a statement posted to the organization's website reads.

Theatre Outre also named the nearby business owners and their companies it claims are spurring the hate-filled comments but Metro withheld those as it could not independently verify the accusations.

The theatre company said it only recently moved into a bigger site inside the McFarland building, located at 517A-4th Street South, after capping off a successful theatre season.

"This new space, which had previously been a dance studio, was transformed through many hours of volunteer help, as well as a substantial financial investment by us, into a small black-box theatre with a colourful lobby," the online statement read.

Theatre Outre did pledge, "The show will go on," but did not specify other potential locations for Bordello.

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Gay officer. Alberta's top Mountie says she's been treated with respect

Alberta's first top-ranking female RCMP officer says she has always been treated with respect as a gay officer in the force.

While the RCMP have been rocked by allegations of harassment in recent months and face several lawsuits, newly appointed assistant Commissioner Marianne Ryan said she has been treated well.

She choked back tears Wednesday as she thanked her partner during a change-of-command ceremony in Edmonton.

"I think it's important to be who you are and the RCMP is a very diverse and welcoming organization. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Very fortunate'

A spokesman said Ryan is the first openly gay officer in charge of Alberta.

- "I'm very proud of who I am and who my partner is and I'm especially proud to be the commanding officer of Alberta," Ryan said.

Calgary-area highways

Two dead in separate crashes

Two people were killed on highways near Calgary Wednesday as authorities warned of slippery conditions. Airdrie police say a 35-year-old Calgary driver lost control of his Nissan pickup truck on northbound Hwy. 2 then smashed head-on into a semi-truck at about 10:30 a.m.

Another fatality was reported at about 7:30 a.m. near Strathmore when an Audi A4 was hit on the driver's side while crossing a clear stretch of Hwy 1. The victim was identified as a 27-year-old Chestermere resident. METRO

Calgarian narrows search for free-house recipients

Jason Hastie is giving away his house in Killarney to whoever can move it.
BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

'A lot of tears shed.'
Man's bungalow to bring bunch of bounty to a family in need

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Since pledging to donate his bungalow to a good cause, Jason Hastie has been inundated with heart-wrenching tales from thousands of needy applicants.

He's heard from families claiming to have lost everything due to house fires, shady contractors and Alberta's historic flood.

"There's every kind of story that you can imagine," Hastie said Wednesday.

Earlier this month, Hastie used Kijiji to offer his well-maintained Killarney bungalow to whoever can move it. With help from friends and family, he's narrowed down the list to about 100 finalists from the 2,000 emailed responses.

"There's been a lot of tears shed," he said.

The country crooner acknowledges it may take some money to cart away his 1,200-square-foot abode.

However, he's ponied up the first $1,000 for relocation costs. And now he's leveraging connections with a car manufacturer, a house-moving company and his fellow musicians to do more.

"Our biggest goal is that it goes to the family that needs it the most. It's a very tough process."

The Hastie family plans to make their decision in mid-February.

Quoted

"Our biggest goal is that it goes to the family that needs it the most."
Jason Hastie

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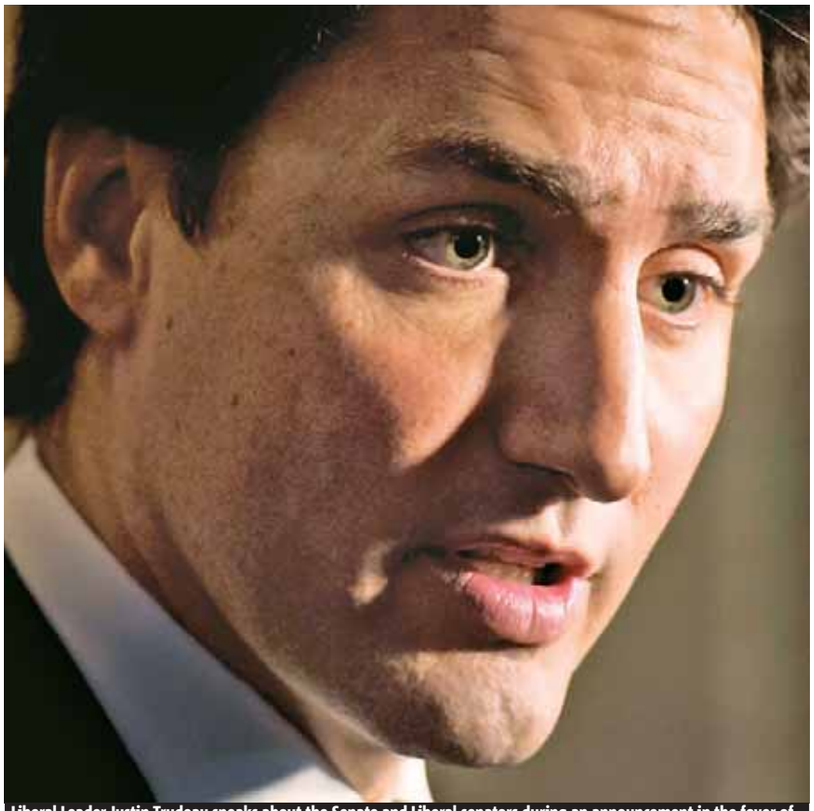


Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau speaks about the Senate and Liberal senators during an announcement in the foyer of the House of Commons Wednesday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suddenly 'set free' Liberal senators test their freedom

If it walks like a duck... Former Liberal legislators say they will style themselves as the Liberal Senate caucus

Justin Trudeau handed out pink slips to Liberal senators Wednesday, kicking them out of the party's caucus.

The surprise move — announced moments after Trudeau personally informed all 32 of them that they are now "formerly Liberal senators" — is aimed at reducing partisanship and restoring the Senate's intended role as an independent chamber of sober second thought.

"There are no more Liberal senators," Trudeau told a news conference on Parliament Hill immediately after leaving the senators to mull over the implications of his decision.

After the initial shock wore off, the senators emerged from a meeting declaring that they'd been "set free" and praising Trudeau for his bold move. They immediately used their new freedom to contradict Trudeau's assertion that they can no longer designate themselves as "Liberal" senators. And they went further off script by suggesting the move actually won't change much in the upper house.

The confusion allowed Stephen Harper to slough off Trudeau's challenge to follow the Liberal lead and similarly cut loose the 57 Conservative senators. "I gather the change announced by the leader today is that unelected Liberal senators will become unelected senators who happen to be Liberal," Harper scoffed.

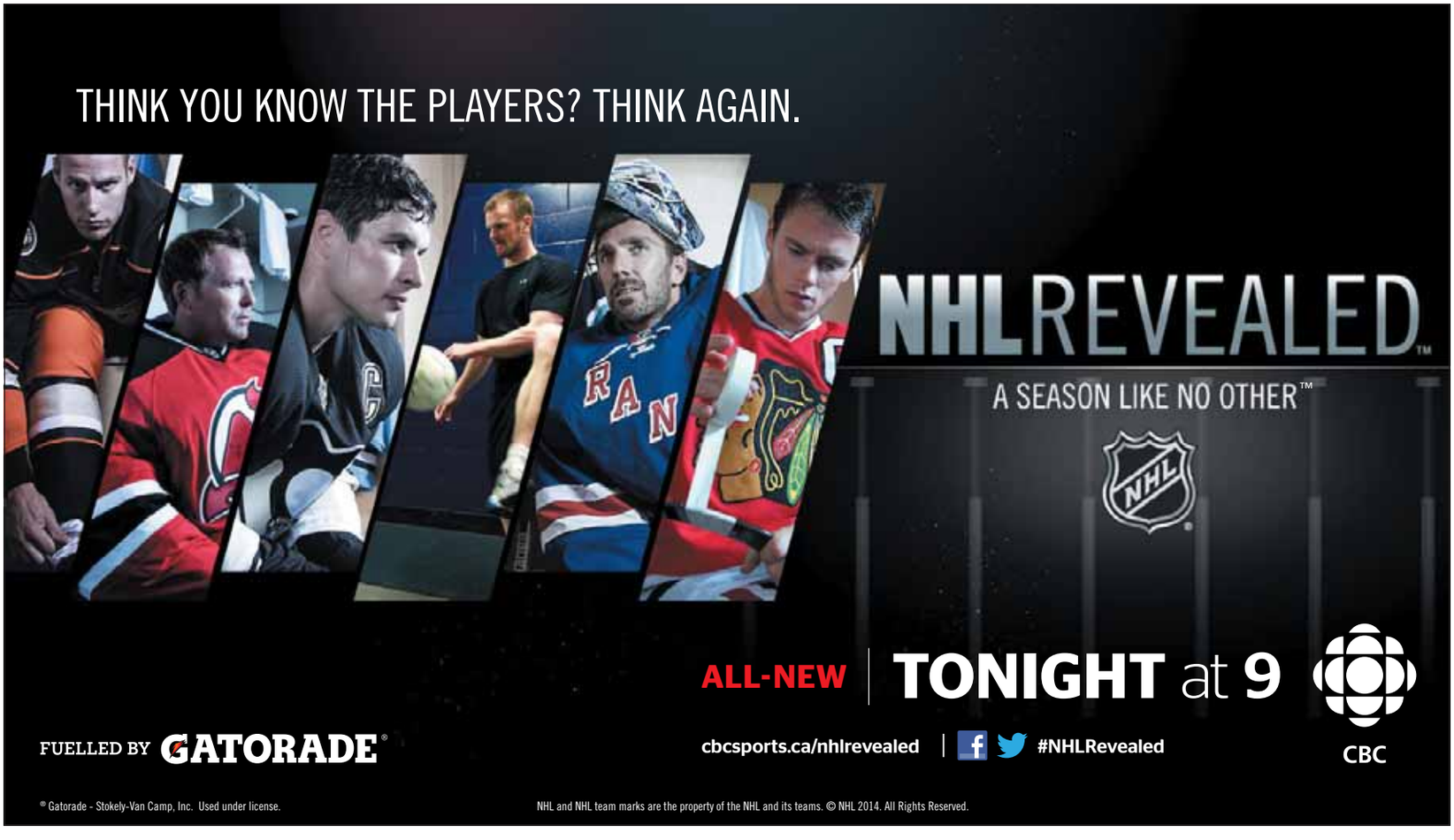
NDP Leader Tom Mulcair noted that Trudeau voted against an NDP motion last October which called on both the Liberals and Conservatives to cut their senators loose.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still Liberals

"We have agreed that we will style ourselves as the Liberal Senate caucus."

James Cowan, leader of the official Opposition in the Senate, pointing out that senators will remain Liberal party members and continue to be friends with elected Liberal MPs.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Bieber turns himself in to police in connection with assault charge

Another run-in with the law. Singer is back in the spotlight, but not for his music

Justin Bieber has been charged in Toronto with assault after police allege he hit a limousine driver several times in the back of the head.

Bieber was charged with one count of assault and is scheduled to appear in court in Toronto on March 10.

Police allege Bieber was one of six people who were picked up by a limousine from a nightclub in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, and there was an altercation while en route to a hotel.

Police officers escorted pop star Justin Bieber through a frenzied throng of media and fans to a Toronto police station Wednesday night where the pop star surrendered in connection with an alleged assault.

Hundreds of fans, spectators and photographers braved the biting cold to greet the 19-year-old singer, who emerged from a black SUV Wednesday night. Fans screamed "Justin," as he was led to the side entrance of Toronto Police Service's 52 Division headquarters.

Bieber's surrender is connected to an alleged assault on a limousine driver who was driving the pop star and his entourage in Toronto in December.

A police spokesperson last month said it was unclear whether the teen heartthrob himself was involved in the alleged attack on Dec. 29, or simply one of his companions. Toronto police have not commented on Bieber's Wednesday night surrender.

"He's done some bad stuff, but I forgive him," said Boubacar Diallo, 12, who waited outside the police station to see the singer. "He just needs to think before he acts."

Others showed up for the possibility of a show.

"He should be charged, he's a wreck," said Peter Esper, 18. "He deserves to be punished. He's a bad name for the country."

Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun, tweeted Wednesday evening asking people to "stop passing judgment."

"Clearly he's in a bad-boy phase," said Bob Thompson, the director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University.

Thompson said the Stratford-born singer's recent runins with the law, including his arrest in Miami Beach last week and a raid on his California home, reflect Bieber's changing image.

Bieber pled not guilty in Florida after Miami police charged him with driving under the influence, resisting arrest and carrying an expired licence.

Bad-boy phase

"Not exactly street-cred bad boy. There is kind of a juvenile quality to the whole thing."

Bob Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University

Canadian musician Justin Bieber is swarmed by media and police officers as he turns himself in to city police in Toronto on Wednesday night.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

That incident sparked a petition on the White House website calling on the U.S. government to deport Bieber. More than 138,000 people have signed it.

"He is not only threatening the safety of our people, but he is also a terrible influence on our nation's youth," the petition states.

Because the petition has garnered more than 100,000 signatures, the White House must write an official reply.

At this point, Thompson said, it's anyone's guess where Bieber will go from here — whether this is a prelude to more mayhem or the troubled singer will turn a corner and clean up his act.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flight of the monarch in jeopardy

Mexico. Report blames shrinking food supply, genetically modified crops as catalysts in migration drop

The stunning and little-understood annual migration of millions of monarch butterflies to spend the winter in Mexico is in danger of disappearing, experts said Wednesday, after numbers dropped to their lowest level since record-keeping began in 1993.

Their report blamed the displacement of the milkweed the species feeds on by genetically modified crops and urban sprawl in the United States, extreme weather trends and the dramatic reduction of the butterflies' habitat in Mexico due to illegal logging of the trees they depend on for shelter.

After steep and steady declines in the previous three years, the black-and-orange butterflies now cover only 0.67 hectares in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City, compared to 1.19 hectares last year, said the report released by the World Wildlife Fund, Mexico's Environment Department and the Natural Protected Areas Commission. They covered more than 18 hectares at their recorded peak in 1996.

Because the butterflies clump together by the thousands in trees, they are counted by the area they cover.

While the monarch is not in danger of extinction, the decline in their population now marks a statistical long-term trend and can no longer be seen as a combination of yearly or seasonal events, experts said.

The announcement followed on the heels of the 20th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which saw the United States, Mexico and Canada sign environmental accords to protect migratory species such as the monarch. At the time, the butterfly was adopted as the symbol of trilateral co-operation.

"Twenty years after the signing of NAFTA, the monarch migration, the symbol of the three countries' co-operation, is at serious risk of disappearing," said Omar Vidal, the World Wildlife Fund director in Mexico.

Monarch butterflies gather on a tree near Angangueo, Mexico. The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico has plunged to its lowest levels since studies began in 1993. KRISTEN LUCE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lincoln Brower, a leading entomologist at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, wrote that "the migration is definitely proving to be an endangered biological phenomenon."

"The main culprit," he wrote in an email, is now genetically modified "herbicide-resistant corn and soybean crops and herbicides in the USA," which "leads to the wholesale killing of the monarch's principal food plant, common milkweed."

While Mexico has made headway in reducing logging in the officially protected winter reserve, that alone cannot save the migration, wrote Karen Oberhauser, a professor at the University of Minnesota.

She noted that studies indicate that the U.S. Midwest is where most of the butterflies migrate from.

Extreme weather — severe cold snaps, unusually heavy rains or droughts in all three countries — have also apparently played a role in the decline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A winter retreat

It's unclear what would happen to the monarchs if they no longer made their annual trek to Mexico, the world's biggest migration of monarch butterflies and second-largest insect migration globally, after a species of dragonfly in Africa.

- **Abundant bug.** There are monarchs in many parts of the world so they would not go extinct.
- **Cold facts.** The butterflies can apparently survive year-round in warmer climates, but populations in northern United States and Canada would have to find some place to spend the bitter winters.
- **Plan B?** While a smaller migration route to the California coast is on the decline, the monarchs now appear to be wintering along the U.S. Gulf Coast, experts say.

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Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than Jan. 31st.

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Ukraine thinks about amnesty with conditions

Holdings. Protesters have established a large tent camp in the main square of Kyiv, called the Maidan

Ukraine's parliament discussed an amnesty Wednesday for those arrested during weeks of protests in the crisis-torn country — but some of the possible conditions attached to it would be unacceptable to the opposition.

The amnesty bill is part of a series of concessions from embattled President Viktor Yanukovych, after a week of street clashes between police and protesters and protesters' seizure of government buildings in western Ukraine. The prime minister has resigned and harsh anti-protest laws have been recalled but those moves did not address the protesters' other key demands that Yanukovych resign and early elections be held.

Two amnesty proposals were up for a parliamentary vote Wednesday, one of which says amnesty would be granted only if demonstrators leave their massive street protests and vacate buildings they now occupy. Parliament was also discussing a political reform, sought by the opposition, which would strengthen the government at the expense of the presidency.

Opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk said the protesters will not agree to leave the streets in exchange for an amnesty and wanted the condition dropped.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"They have set a number of conditions, and the key condition under the draft bill is to let the Maidan go and only afterwards all protesters will get an amnesty.... This is unacceptable for us."

Opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk

A protester puts homemade steel plates on his chest as he prepares to leave the Agriculture Ministry in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday. One group of protesters clashed with another Wednesday in a bid to free a government building in the centre of Kyiv, which they had seized. At least two protesters were injured. The Svoboda party, which represents more moderate protesters, tried to force members of the more militant Spilna Sprava group to vacate the Agriculture Ministry building as part of a compromise with the government. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At home

Calling on Canada

Ukrainian Canadians and opposition MPs are calling on the Harper Conservatives to impose sanctions on Ukraine's government in response to the ongoing crackdown on protests in that country. On Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced that senior Ukrainian officials would be barred from entering Canada. The move was in response to violent clashes between protesters and police in Ukraine. A few dozen people held a demonstration today in Ottawa in solidarity with the Ukrainian protests. They called on the Harper government to go further than symbolic measures, and impose economic sanctions against Ukraine's political class. The call came as Ukraine's first post-independence president, Leonid Kravchuk, warned that his country was on the brink of civil war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- Ability to prep files for print production, including file stuffing (.zip, .sitx, .sit, .sea) and FTP experience
- Professional, personable, approachable with great communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to thrive under pressure in a fast paced, multi-faceted and deadline driven environment with strong attention to detail (typography, copy, grammar, layout, images, colour, etc)
- Must be a quick problem-solver, who initiates projects and takes a pro-active approach.
- Must be highly skilled at multi-tasking, prioritizing workload efficiently, and tracking ad material.
- Post secondary degree or diploma in Graphic Design (Print)
- 3+ years design experience within a media environment

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than Jan. 31, 2014.

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Top spy says Syrian terror group plans to attack United States

The al-Nusra Front. Foreigners reportedly being trained to return home and cause havoc

The Syrian militant group tied to al-Qaida, the al-Nusra Front, wants to attack the United States and is training a growing cadre of fighters from Europe, the Mideast and even the U.S., the top American intelligence official told Congress on Wednesday.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told the Senate Intelligence Committee that such al-Qaida groups in Syria have started camps "to train people to go back to their countries."

He said "al-Nusra Front, to name one .... does have aspirations for attacks on the homeland."

Clapper didn't elaborate or offer any evidence.

He said more established groups like Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula are still more capable of carrying out attacks against the U.S., but described steep growth in numbers of fighters in Syria.

Clapper said out of an estimated 75,000 to 110,000 rebels battling the government in Syria, some 26,000 are extremists, and about 7,000 of them are foreigners.

"Not only are fighters being drawn to Syria, but so are technologies and techniques that pose particular problems to our defences," said committee chairwoman Dianne Feinstein.

She warned Syria could become "a launching point or way station for terrorists seeking to attack the United States or other nations," in the annual hearing to receive the intelligence committee's assessment of world threats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea

Nuke threats real: Report

North Korea has followed through on its threat to advance its nuclear-weapons program — expanding a uranium enrichment facility and restarting a reactor — James Clapper said Wednesday, while a research institute pointed to signs the country is preparing to launch bigger rockets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ensuring hard work pays off

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks about raising the minimum wage on Wednesday at a Costco in Lanham, Md., the day after his State of the Union address. Later, at a U.S. Steel Corp. plant outside Pittsburgh, Obama signed an order to create starter retirement accounts that could be opened with as little as $25 — but acknowledged there's a limit to what he can do without congressional action. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Asia

Historical grudges derail UN debate

The tensions gripping East Asia flared Wednesday at a UN Security Council debate.

China, along with North and South Korea, blamed Japan for the animosity and lambasted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to a shrine where convicted Second World War criminals are buried.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Canadian charged with links to terror

The family of an Egyptian-Canadian journalist issued an urgent appeal for Ottawa's help Wednesday, as they learned the man had been charged with being part of a terrorist group. Mohamed Fahmy was among 20 Al Jazeera employees who were charged in what may be the first time Egypt has referred journalists to trial for terrorism. THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. South snarled by seldom-seen snowstorm

1 Gimme shelter. Finding refuge down on the pharmacy

People take shelter at a pharmacy in Atlanta Wednesday as a rare snowstorm left thousands in the U.S. South frozen in their tracks. Workers slept in offices, students camped in schools and drivers abandoned cars. JAIME SARRIO/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Highway star. Stranded drivers get roadside assistance

Kevin Moore hands out snacks and water to a stranded motorist on Interstate 285 Wednesday in Dunwoody, Ga. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal said Wednesday that the National Guard was sending military vehicles onto Atlanta's freeway system to move stranded school buses and get food and water to people. BRANDEN CAMP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Going nowhere. Trucks trapped on tricky trails

Traffic is at a standstill on Interstate 65 as officials work to clear abandoned vehicles Wednesday in Hoover, Ala. The snowstorm deposited mere inches of snow, but the South saw 1,000 fender-benders, with at least six people dying in accidents. HAL YEAGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 All downhill. The weather isn't toboggan them down

Marines assigned to Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, ride in a makeshift toboggan Wednesday. It was uncertain when highways would thaw, as temperatures were not expected to be above freezing for very long. JOHN ALTHOUSE/THE DAILY NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Freedom of beach. Who's up for volleyball ... or skiing?

Women take in the wintry mix at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Wednesday. Southern hospitality was on offer during the storm, with people taking to social media to offer guest rooms, fire stations, churches and park gymnasiums to those needing a warm place to stay. MIKE SPENCER/THE STAR-NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rob Ford sued over alleged link to prison assault

Statement of claim. Ex-boyfriend of Ford's sister says he was beaten in jail to keep him silent about Toronto mayor's 'unsavoury activities'

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford at a budget debate in Toronto on Wednesday.
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is being sued by his sister's ex-boyfriend, who alleges Ford conspired to have him attacked in jail to prevent his illicit behaviours from becoming public.

Scott MacIntyre alleges in the statement of claim filed Wednesday that the mayor arranged for jail staff to facilitate the beating. Video surveillance in the area had been "inexplicably disabled" before the attack and the guards stationed to watch the area didn't come to his aid, MacIntyre alleges.

MacIntyre went to jail in 2012 after being charged with threatening the mayor, for saying he would expose his "unsavoury activities," MacIntyre says in his statement of claim.

It was there in March 2012 that he was brutally beaten, more than a year before reports on the existence of a video appearing to show the mayor smoking crack cocaine.

"Ford's drug and alcohol abuse, and his association with criminals to facilitate his drug abuse … are long-standing," MacIntyre writes in his statement of claim. "Ford was anxious that these matters should remain undiscovered."

The allegations are "without fact or foundation," Ford's lawyer Dennis Morris said.

MacIntyre alleges Ford conspired with Payman Aboodowleh, who coached high school football with Ford, to have one of their former players, who was also in jail at the time, attack him.

The former player, Aedan Petros, was among various inmates who told MacIntyre to "keep his mouth shut," once he was sent to jail, MacIntyre alleges.

The suit also names Ontario's Ministry of Correctional Services, which is responsible for the province's jails, Aboodowleh and Petros.

MacIntyre is seeking $1 million in damages from all of the defendants, plus $100,000 from each of them for aggravated, punitive and penal damages. He is also seeking another $100,000 from the ministry, who he alleges breached his charter right to life, liberty and security of the person.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The donkey defence? VIA terror-plot suspect goes on anti-gay-marriage tirade

A man accused of plotting an attack on a VIA Rail train took aim at homosexuality in court Wednesday, denouncing Canada's "written-by-humans" Criminal Code because he said it protects gay marriage.

Chiheb Esseghaier, 31, was arrested last April 22 on charges of conspiring to derail a passenger train travelling from New York to Toronto.

Esseghaier, who has refused to seek counsel since no lawyer will represent him based on the Qur'an, made a speech on Canada's legal system.

"The Criminal Code is a book written by humans," Esseghaier said. "We are putting the laws of God behind our back and we are following the laws of humans."

Esseghaier's speech came to a definitive end once he began talking about the Criminal Code protecting gay marriage, which he said did not occur between same-sex animals outside of humans.

"Donkey males marry only donkey females," he said, before Superior Court Judge John McMahon interrupted, leading to a tense moment in court.

"No!" Esseghaier shouted at the judge's interjection, causing two seated officers to rise to their feet to maintain order.

Earlier, Esseghaier, who has given off-topic speeches in previous court appearances, complained he was forced to show his "sex" to a guard who was conducting a weapons strip search. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa

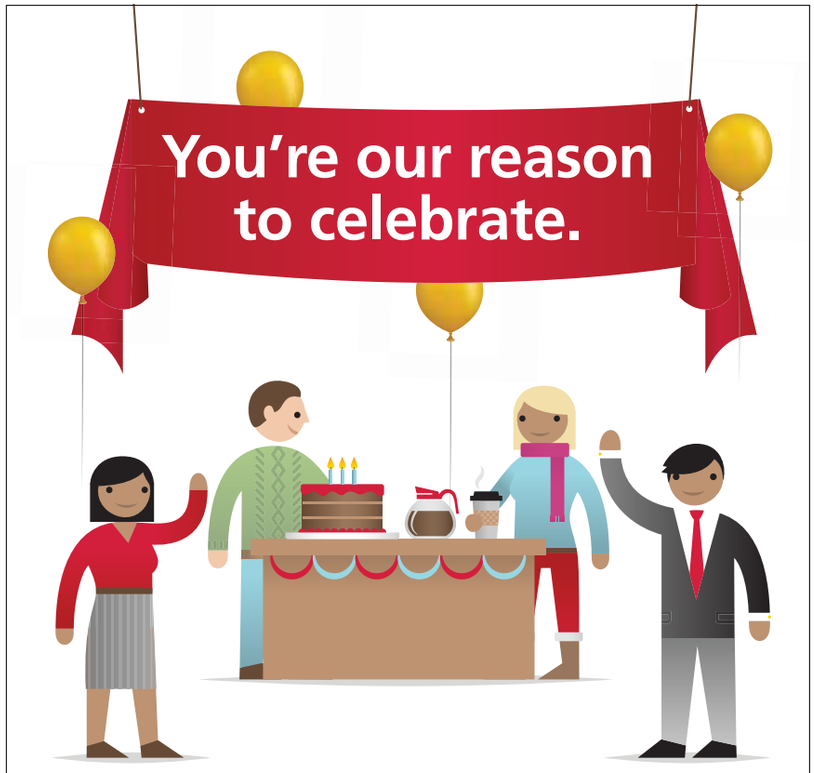
Teen pimp found guilty of human trafficking

A 17-year-old girl was found guilty Wednesday of a slew of charges stemming from a teen-pimping ring she orchestrated with two friends in Ottawa in early 2012.

Her guilty charges include human trafficking, procuring for the purpose of prostitution, assault, forcible confinement and uttering threats to cause bodily harm. The girl was 15 at the time of her arrest.

The court heard during the trial that the ringleader and her co-accused lured teen girls and befriended other peers on Facebook and used violence to force them into prostitution.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA



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Will nine be lucky number for Target?

From the double ring to bulls-eye? Despite missing the mark in Canada, the U.S. retailer is still aiming for success, opening nine new stores

A worker installs an outdoor sign at a Target store in Nova Scotia last year. Nine more Target stores are set for Canada this year. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Target plans on opening nine more stores in Canada this year.

The U.S.-based retailer said Wednesday it will open two locations in Mississauga, and one store each in Toronto, Ottawa and Barrie.

Stores will also be added in Edmonton, Victoria, Winnipeg and Candiac, Que.

Five of the locations will be in former Zellers locations, while the others will be newly constructed stores.

By the end of the year, Target said it will have a total of 133 locations in Canada.

The retailer has faced high expansion costs and disappointing sales since its highly anticipated arrival in Canada last year as shoppers complained about near-empty shelves and notably higher prices than at U.S. Target stores.

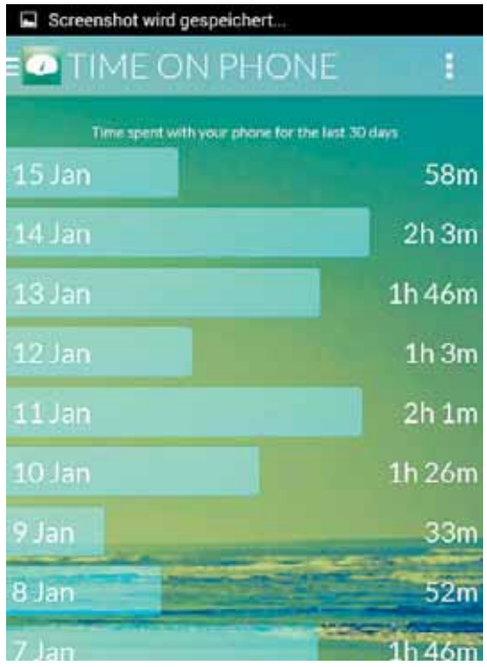
Last week, the retailer said it would offer some of its Canadian customers a year of free credit monitoring after a massive security breach at its U.S. stores put confidential details into the hands of thieves.

Target emailed customers saying it believed their information may have been taken if they visited U.S. Target stores between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15.

Target said an investigation found the personal information could have included the names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of some Canadians.

Unlike affected U.S. customers, who had payment data from their debit and credit cards taken, the Canadian information is limited to contact information, according to the company.

Target has said the number of Canadians affected is estimated to be "well under" one per cent of the total, which represents less than 700,000 customers. THE CANADIAN PRESS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13 Jan 1h 46m
12 Jan 1h 3m
11 Jan 2h 1m
10 Jan 1h 26m
9 Jan 33m
8 Jan 52m
7 Jan 1h 46m

Use your phone ... to track your phone addiction

This screenshot from Menthal, an app created at the University of Bonn in Germany, shows smartphone-usage figures. Psychologist Christian Montag, who worked on the project, hopes that by measuring how much time people spend on their smartphones the app will help researchers identify and deal with addiction. "This is a live discussion and this will provide data. We are seeking patterns in areas such as tolerance development and withdrawal," he says. CONTRIBUTED/METRO WORLD NEWS

Struggling retailer

Sears cuts more staff as part of turnaround plan

Sears Canada Inc. has announced a round of layoffs for the second time this month, eliminating 624 workers.

Most of the reductions will be in middle management at Sears department stores, affecting an average of five employees per location, Sears Canada said in a release. It is trying to reduce costs and improve its overall business as part of a three-year turnaround plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.46¢ (-0.18¢)

TSX 13,643.22 (-44.44)

OIL $97.36 US (-$0.05)

GOLD $1,262.20 US (+$11.40)

Natural gas: $5.46 US (+$0.57)
Dow Jones: 15,738.79 (-189.77)

Angry Birds website hacked following spying allegations

Angry Birds creator Rovio Entertainment Ltd. says the popular game's home pages have been hacked, two days after reports that the personal data of its customers might have been accessed by U.S. and British spy agencies.

Rovio spokeswoman says the hacking lasted a few minutes early Wednesday and that end-user data "was in no risk at any point."

The hacking came after documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden suggested that the NSA and Britain's GCHQ had been able to extract information through a host of smartphone apps across the globe, including the Angry Birds game franchise.

Rovio has denied the claims, saying it does not "share data, collaborate or collude" with any spy agencies and that it would re-evaluate third-party advertising networks.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheers! Cheerios' interracial family back for Super Bowl

Cheerios is bringing back an interracial family to star in its Super Bowl ad.

They were featured in an ad last year that made headlines after it sparked ugly comments online. But the negative remarks were followed by an outpouring of support for the fictional family, made up of a black dad, white mom and their young daughter.

General Mills, which owns Cheerios, said at the time that it cast the actors to reflect the changing U.S. population. Despite the controversy, the Minneapolis-based company continued running the ad for several months as planned.

30 seconds of fame

$4M

A 30-second spot during the Super Bowl costs around $4 million US this year.

In the new spot set to debut during the Super Bowl, the father uses individual Cheerios to illustrate each member of the family, explaining to his young daughter that, "Pretty soon, you're going to have a baby brother." The girl looks dismayed at first, but then smiles and adds another Cheerio to the little pile.

"And, a puppy," she negotiates. Her father says it's a deal. The ad closes with a shot of the mom, watching from the side, looking alarmed at that development.

A 30-second spot during the Super Bowl costs around $4 million US this year. A spokesman for General Mills said the ad is set to air during the first unscheduled time out during the game Sunday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOUCHDOWNS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

It's time for the Super Bowl, the most-watched sporting event in North America and the only reason school children still learn Roman numerals.

Super Bowl XLVIII (or 18 1/2) is coming up this Sunday and it promises to be an exciting match.

The Denver Broncos have a 15-3 record and the league's top offence, but the Seattle Seahawks have a 15-3 record and the league's top defence, so both teams will likely stay in a zero-zero deadlock for hours, parrying every move with a perfectly mirrored countermove just like when superheroes fight their doppelgängers in movies.

We know all about the Big Game, but have you ever wondered how it got this way? No? Then don't read this History of the Super Bowl.

1966: PepsiCo and Kraft Foods create the Super Bowl as a way to sell more food and drink during the slow winter months. Advertisers create an elaborate backstory detailing the "history of American football" that, amusingly, many still believe.

1967: Super Bowl I is held in front of 4,000 screaming fans. Back then the ball weighed 25 pounds, helmets were made of papier-mâché, and no touching was allowed.

1968: Vince Lombardi coaches and wins his last big championship in Super Bowl II, just moments before he is killed in a tragic Gatorade-dumping accident.

1971: Quarterback Joe Namath is given official status as the Default Football Answer for Trivial Pursuit Players Who Know Nothing About Football, a title he will not relinquish until the rise of Joe Montana.

1972: The Miami Dolphins have a perfect season, making them the only 53 people alive with the right to cast the first stone.

1976: Half-time act University of Arizona Marching Band has a mass wardrobe malfunction, with nipples visible all over the place. The fiasco happens in the days before DVR, however, so viewers just say, "Did you see that?" and leave it there.

1986: William "The Refrigerator" Perry becomes the heaviest man to ever score a Super Bowl touchdown. His feat is less surprising when one realizes his background as a member of a daring, highly trained special-missions force whose purpose was to defend human freedom against Cobra, a ruthless, terrorist organization determined to rule the world.

1987: After a strike-shortened series, the Washington Redskins win the Super Bowl when running back John Riggins is the last man standing in an 858-man Royal Rumble.

1991: Reflecting musical trends of the day, frequent half-time performer Up With People is replaced for the first time by Down With Everything.

2008: The New England Patriots lose their first game of the season in the Super Bowl, sending a deluge of "Perfect Season" T-shirts to small villages in South America.

2013: For legal reasons, the half-time show is a lecture by U.S. Surgeon General Boris Lushniak on the dangers of traumatic brain injury.

What might happen this year? Who knows? But one thing is for certain: It's one the best times of the year to "work" in journalism because between the game, the half-time show, the parties and the commercials, it's the one date when four non-stories (four!) fill the news cycle simultaneously. Touchdown!

ZOOM

Up Helly Aa! Fire in the Shetlands

ALL IMAGES: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

The Guizer Jarl, the leader of the squad of hairy, hardy Viking "guizers," walks along the town streets.

Don'tcha wanna know why they keep starting fires?

Thousands of latter-day Viking warriors have descended on Scotland's Shetland Islands to celebrate Up Helly Aa, the largest fire festival in Europe.

Held on the last Tuesday of January, the fiery event sees a replica Viking longboat being hauled through the streets of Lerwick to the edge of town where up to 1,000 paraders (known as the Jarl Squad) throw their flaming torches into the galley. METRO

The origins of the event come from the early 1800s, when, following the Napoleonic Wars, Lerwick was the home of many returning soldiers and sailors, who were keen on burning things to celebrate.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Though there's no shortage of music players or streaming services online, there's still just nothing that rivals the selection of good ol' YouTube. But if annoying ads, senseless playlists and clunky searching keeps you from tuning into YouTube's mega library, Chrome has come to the rescue. Still in beta, Streamus is a new extension that lets users stream from YouTube without ever having to actually go to YouTube.com. Here's how it works:

1: Once you've downloaded Streamus from the Chrome Web Store, type Streamus, then TAB, into Chrome's search bar followed by the song you want to hear.

2: Click the S icon on the right of your browser to add songs and create playlists (don't need a Google/YouTube account!).

3: Once you've heard all your jams, enable the radio by clicking the Wi-Fi-looking icon at the bottom of the playlist.

Twitter

A petition to deport @justinbieber from the U.S. gets more than 100,000 signatures, which means the White House has to formally respond. What should they do?

@55EYFD: Caveat Emptor America!He's your problem now.

@SCCASMOM how about they worry about the shootings at schools and work on their firearms law instead of focusing on a spoiled rich kid?

@WillyRBeek they can do whatever they want, just so long as they don't send him back here!

@AEphotoWPG The US doesn't want him, Canada doesn't want him back. Somalia, perhaps? Beirut?

@justDarylD We'll take him back if they take Rob Ford

@Kossovan Sure! It would make all the Canadian Beliebers happy. Think of the income tax added to our government'scoffer! #JustinBieber

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SCENE 2

DiGiovanni has that surreal feel

Cross-country tour.
Female comic believes she has attained 'the Holy Grail for comics'

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Debra DiGiovanni is currently on a cross-country tour and will be in Calgary on Saturday night. CONTRIBUTED

Debra DiGiovanni is pinching herself a lot these days. The Canadian comedienne is currently on a cross-country theatre tour, a fact she sometimes finds hard to believe.

"It's a little surreal," she says with a laugh. "I keep thinking, 'Am I really doing this tour?' This is like the Holy Grail for comics."

Though she's performed in comedy clubs around the country for years, and took part in Just For Laughs' annual comedy tour in 2012, it's the first time DiGiovanni has headlined large soft-seat venues. "This is one of the big milestones for me," she says.

"I think the best way to describe it is like being the hostess of the party. And you just want people to come and have fun. That's where the nerves are.

"When you're at a comedy club you know what to expect .... Didn't get them at the 7 p.m. show? We'll get them at the 11 p.m. show. But with these theatre shows, you get one shot."

For DiGiovanni, hard work has been a key to her 14-year comedy career, but she says luck and good timing have also played a big role.

Although she's one of Canada's more successful working comics, DiGiovanni still has her doubts.

"I don't think I could get a job at a bookstore now," says DiGiovanni, who attended Humber College's comedy writing and performance course before getting profile-raising stints on MuchMusic's popular Video On Trial series and becoming a finalist on NBC's Last Comic Standing in 2007. "I'm not married. I'm not having children. So there's a bit of, 'This better work out.' But I'm a lucky girl. Everything's been kind of driving towards this."

Quoted

"I think the best way to describe it is like being the hostess of the party. And you just want people to come and have fun. That's where the nerves are.
Debra DiGiovanni, comedienne

While she's thrilled with the chance to headline a tour, she's also trying to take her career up another notch in Los Angeles. DiGiovanni moved to Hollywood in February, hoping to find more television work.

"It's not that there isn't opportunity in Canada, because there is," she explains. "It's just that in L.A., it's times 10,000. You might as well go where everything is made."

The fact fellow plus-sized comedians Rebel Wilson and Melissa McCarthy are in demand at the moment hasn't hurt either.

"I think that's good timing for me," she says. "If I meet those two ladies, oh, I am hugging them. Because now when they post auditions looking for a 'Rebel Wilson type,' Enter: Debra."

Details

• **Tickets.** Debra DiGiovanni's Late Bloomer Tour comes to the Jack Singer Concert Hall on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the Epcor Centre Box Office, 403-294-9494 or at the door.

• **Elsewhere.** Debra DiGiovanni can also be seen on the panel for The Comedy Network's reboot of Match Game with Darrin Rose and Seán Cullen.

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Director weaves comic book storylines with harsh realities

Rhymes for Young Ghouls is Jeff Barnaby's first feature film. It opens on Friday in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

Real life villains. A Mi'kmaq teen in the residential school system takes revenge in Jeff Barnaby's Rhymes for Young Ghouls

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Writing in the Toronto International Film Festival program book, Steve Gravestock said Rhymes for Young Ghouls plays, "as if an S.E. Hinton novel were re-imagined as a righteously furious, surreal thriller."

The self-assured debut feature from director Jeff Barnaby is the story of Aila (Devery Jacobs), a Mi'kmaq teen who is guided by the spirits of her departed mother and brother to exact revenge against a vicious Indian Agent named Popper after she is thrown into the reserve's residential school.

"I think the idea behind what we were doing was to show the enormity of what went on," says Barnaby. "You do want to shock people but not with the content of the film but with the idea that the content of the film actually happened. Most of the reviews have been astoundingly positive but the couple of bad ones that we've gotten have complained about the Popper role, and how over the top it is and how he is like this moustache twisting villain, but if you know the history, these guys had to have existed.

"I suppose you could be polite about saying, 'You can't leave the reserve and you can't go find work and you have to live in this poverty, and by the way, you have to give us your kids.' I'm sure there was an Indian Agent or truant officer somewhere who was really cool about it but at the end of the day these are the acts of evil men."

It's a pop culture savvy movie; a work Barnaby calls "a cinephile's film." A pop culture sponge himself, he says years of influences came together in the making of Rhymes for Young Ghouls.

"I grew up being saturated in everything, comic books, books," he says. "My stepmom was going to university at the time so she was bringing home all these great books, like English poetry, T.S. Eliot and Robert Frost, so I began to appreciate art at a very early age."

Near the top of the influence list are Batman and Conan the Barbarian.

"They are both anti-heroes but they share this idea of not being above physical violence in order to rectify a situation," he says. "They both lost their parents, they're both vigilantes particularly with Conan we follow the storyline of the first Schwarzenegger movie—a religious cult comes along and destroys his family and he goes searching for them and destroys the cult. That is more or less the model we used for Rhymes although very loosely, in the way Scorsese says he used The Searchers for Taxi Driver."

He also cites Scott Hampton's The Upturned Stone, Dashiell Hammett's Red Harvest and Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club but adds the influences go "through all these filters and by the time it hits the screen what you are trying to emulate has turned into something completely different."

Quoted

"You do want to shock people but not with the content of the film but with the idea that the content of the film actually happened."

Jeff Barnaby, director of Rhymes for Young Ghouls

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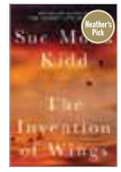

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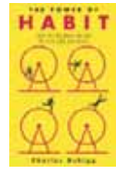
Weeks on List: 4



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In *The Power of Habit,* award-winning business reporter Charles Duhigg takes us to the thrilling edge of scientific discoveries that explain why habits exist, and how this new science can transform our lives.
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This Week		Weeks on List
3.	MY JOURNEY Olivia Chow	2
4.	THE DEMONOLOGIST Andrew Pyper	3
5.	LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson	4
6.	COLD HARD TRUTH ON FAMILY KIDS & MONEY Kevin O'Leary	4
7.	JOYOUS HEALTH Joy McCarthy	3
8.	THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES Alan Bradley	3
9.	ALL IN Arlene Dickinson	4
10.	DUTY Robert M. Gates	2
11.	STOP OVERTHINKING YOUR MONEY Preet Banerjee	4
12.	THE POUND A DAY DIET Rocco Dispirito	4
13.	FIRST LOVE James Patterson	3
14.	THE START HERE DIET Tosca Reno	4
15.	HAZARDOUS DUTY W.E.B. Griffin	4
16.	DARK WOLF Christine Feehan	4
17.	THE CONFIDENT MOM Joyce Meyer	2
★ 18.	DARK BITES Sherrilyn Kenyon	1
★ 19.	DEADLINE Sandra Brown	1
★ 20.	ALL JOY AND NO FUN Jennifer Senior	1

Combined Fiction and Non-Fiction Bestsellers for the week, ending February 3rd
★ New this week

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Winslet's roles all labours of love

Labor Day. Actress and mother of three has a knack for making brokenness and vulnerability sensual

Kate Winslet stars in Labor Day, which opens Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Before a reporter has barely entered the room, Kate Winslet has defused any formality. After shedding her heels, she announces her exasperation about actors (especially herself) talking about themselves.

"Don't you find yourself nodding off and going, 'Here they go again'?" she asks. "I know that I love my job. I (expletive) hate talking about how much I love my job because how can you talk about that without sounding indulgent?"

She may be a regular honoree at awards shows and a constant presence in prestigious projects from Sense and Sensibility to The Reader. But Winslet has an uncommon candour and easy uninhibitedness that has made her an engagingly down-to-earth personality and a naturalistic actress with quick access to deep emotions.

Winslet was seven-months pregnant at an interview last September at the Toronto International Film Festival, where she debuted Labor Day, a Jason Reitman-directed drama opening in theatres Friday. In December, she gave birth to a boy, her third child and first with her third husband, Ned Rocknroll, the nephew of billionaire Richard Branson. (Winslet has a child with each previous husband, Sam Mendes and Jim Threapleton.)

Parenthood was a particularly obvious conversation subject for Winslet, not just because she was pregnant at the time, but because she has recently strung together a series of memorable, varied portraits of motherhood. It's no coincidence, she says.

"I have been a parent since I was 25," says the 38-year-old Winslet. "That's a large chunk of my adult life. Mother or father, it transforms you completely."

In Labor Day, based on the Joyce Maynard novel, she plays a single mom, Adele, with a 13-year-old son (Gattlin Griffith) in a small New England town. An escaped convict (Josh Brolin) upends their domestic life when he kidnaps them and hides out at their house. But it's not terror that follows: The convict is a gentle, welcome presence in a home that has lacked for a man. Left by her husband after several miscarriages, Adele had turned into a virtual shut-in, but is slowly awakened again by an unlikely love.

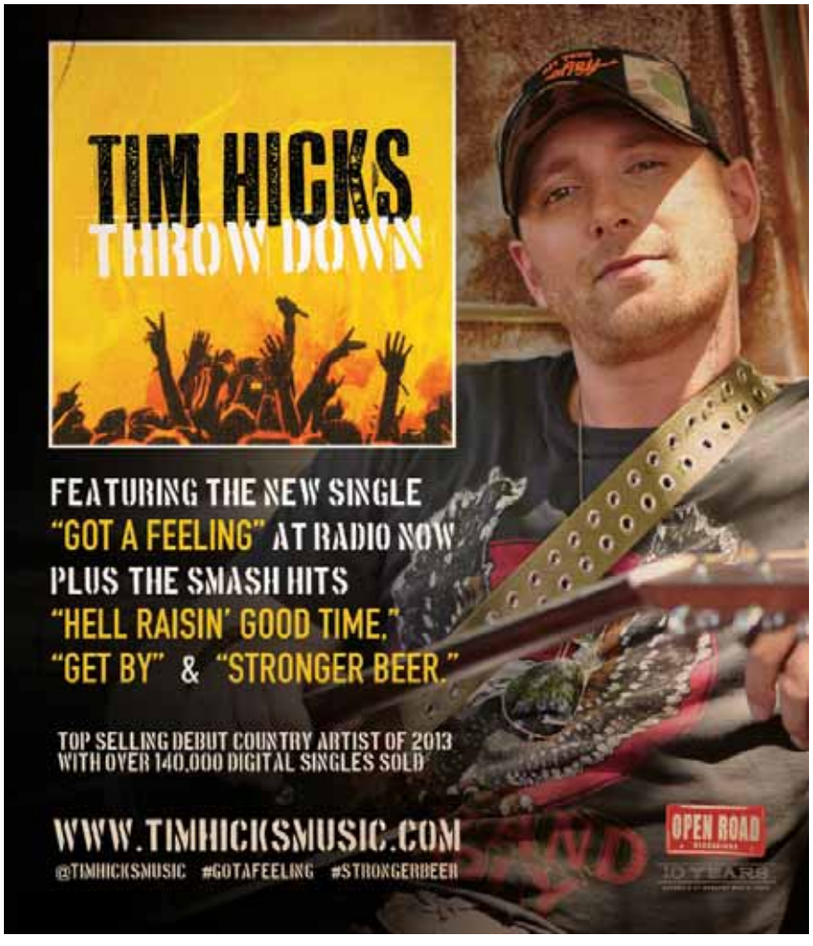
Though playing a mother in movies often means being relegated to the outskirts of the drama, Winslet's characters have had lives that aren't defined solely by children, but remain passionate, complicated individuals.

But the HBO miniseries Mildred Pierce was Winslet's greatest examination of motherhood. She played a striving, Depression-era woman separated from her husband and heartbroken by a spoiled teenager daughter.

"That film kind of almost saved my life," says Winslet. "It came along at a time when I was going through my divorce with Sam. Anyone who's been through divorce will know that every day is really hard. There were days on Mildred where I would just think, 'I don't know how I'm going to get through this day.' Somehow, I think, because the character I was playing was actually my life, it was almost like therapy."

Winslet's acting, though, has been fueled by being an outlet from her more humble day-to-day life. "When I'm not acting, I'm not acting," says Winslet. "I'm being a parent and I'm on the school run and I'm sewing labels onto socks. So when I do it, it's just such a treat. It's such a privilege and such a pleasure. It's almost like my time. It's the one thing I do that's marked for me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Madonna ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Make way, yet again, for Madonna

Madonna's not done with her recent string of public appearances — she also has signed on to introduce members of Pussy Riot at Amnesty International's human rights concert in New York. The pop singer made the announcement Wednesday morning on social media. She's been busy of late, appearing on Sunday's Grammy Awards with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and singing with Miley Cyrus during an MTV Unplugged taping Tuesday. Madonna says in a statement that she admires Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova. They were recently released after nearly two years in jail following a conviction for hooliganism when they staged a protest in a Russian church.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The curious ask George

George Clooney indulged fans in a raucous Reddit AMA ("ask me anything") session, and some of his answers were quite revealing — if not entirely serious — especially when it came to good pal Sandra Bullock, who is "an incredibly charming woman who's really just fun to hang out with. Very smart and centered, even though she does drink a lot," he wrote. "It's tricky because Sandy drinks so much that oftentimes it's just hard to keep her upright." Also worth clearing up? The idea that Clooney has "lonely eyes," which he disputes — sort of. "I actually have only one lonely eye. The other eye's got nothing but friends," he replied.

George Clooney

The Word

Grant, in the case of many babies, Hugh are the father!

Hugh Grant is creating quite the army of heirs. It's already been reported that the Love Actually star fathered two children, one in 2011 and one in 2012, with a secret girlfriend, but now sources claim he had another child in 2012 by another woman, according to the Sun. Grant's identity as the father of Swedish TV producer Anna Eberstein's child was kept secret until December, when the one-year-old boy's birth certificate was re-registered with Grant's name on it. "Anna is being supported by Hugh all the way," a source says. "She lives in a very comfortable property and knows that Hugh is there for her. Anna's parents in Sweden know all about the relationship and she has their blessing."

Twitter

@ricky_martin
My friend, it's all about learning, it's all about growing. Don't stop.

@lindsaylohan
snow adventures!

@Mruff221
My 8 Yr old's response to Presidents plan:fight Climate Change, push more Fossil Fuel Extraction,"that doesn't sound very smart."

Grab the no-name tea and crumpets this time

Queen Elizabeth II

It looks like Buckingham Palace is facing a financial crisis of its own. According to a report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee, Queen Elizabeth II and the rest of the royal family are "spending above their means and dipping into the reserves. The balance now stands at an all-time low." So naturally some cost-cutting measures are being considered. "The Queen is always looking for ways to cut back," CNN's Victoria Arbiter says. "I think they are going to have to look at ways they can get creative in that way, whether that is opening up more palaces or more private rooms or more areas that have not been open to the public before."

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Stock style is on the rise

As the star of The Wolf of Wall Street, Leo gave us a look into the rich man's closet. CONTRIBUTED

Man à la mode. In homage to infamous banker Jordan Belfort, we've put together the '90s cut. It's time to take a gamble in the broker's best.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Alden

leather penny loafers, $829, brownsfashion.com

Ben Sherman

paisley tie, $70, bensherman.com

Paul Smith London

Kensington slim-fit pinstripe suit, $1,690, mrporter.com

Nixon

The Spur, $300, nixon.com

Trends Report

Valentine's 2015 is going to be a special day for many of you — that's the release date for the Fifty Shades of Grey movie! Even if you're not a fan of the erotic novels, grey-toned fashion and accessories are expected to be a huge trend this spring. Go online to Trends Report and see how you can look sexy in many shades of grey.

- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Name: Anna Kosturova

Age: 45

Occupation: Clothing designer

What she's wearing: Scarf by Isabel Marant for H&M, coat from Aritzia, shoes and bag from All Saints, jeans from GAP, shirt from Joe Fresh, sunglasses from H&M.

Her inspiration: "Classic with a twist of rock 'n' roll"

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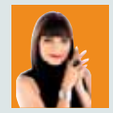

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Feet up+toes ready! Prepping for tomorrow's "shoe shoot"+getting excited about my cool new collection this spring.

Gonna miss my girl! My @Chanel Brick Bear is going off to @DesignExchange for #ThisisNotaToy curated by @Pharrell

ELLE 3

Add a splash of colour

It's time to inject some fresh hues and patterns into our homes, and there's no better opportunity to do it than while we wait for spring to arrive. So start waking up that tired, neutral decor scheme with shades ranging from strong to muted. These product picks, reminiscent of mid-century modern style, are pops of colour that can suit both modern and traditional interiors.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

This sofa by designer Bethan Gray creates womb-like curves that offer a plush, padded welcome with a late 1950's vibe. The springtime blue, linen-like fabric is also stain resistant. Pennie sofa, $1,260, crateandbarrel.com.

Sagaform's oversized coffee cups and saucers add a variety of colours to your dining table. Mix and match with the dish line to create a casual table service. POP coffee cup with saucer, $18, eq3.com.

Owls still dominate the animal-decor kingdom and are the who's-who on this embroidered cotton pillow. Owl on Branch toss cushion, $32, Urban Barn.

Shower with the world's largest paint chips in a retro monochrome scheme. Shades Of Blue shower curtain, $20, simons.ca.

Add some spring green and orange to the floors with a cotton-viscose rug inspired by the spice colours of India. Fab dhurrie, 4 x 6 feet, $475, ecarpetgallery.com.

Add the year's hottest shade to your bathroom and show guests you're on top of the colour trends — even if it's just in a washcloth. Lacoste Croc Wash berry washcloth, $13.50, thebay.com.

Capsule collection

A China-Scandi mashup? That's Ikea's Trendig

On Feb. 1, Ikea launches Trendig, the first in a number of limited collections consisting of around 30 products with a focus on dining and eating. The result is a fusion of Chinese culture and Scandinavian design — a collaboration between designers and technicians from both countries. The main features of the Trendig limited collection products are the colours and patterns. Two shades of red (one on the orange side) and two shades of green dominate the collection, and are mixed with natural blonde materials. METRO

Trendig box with lid, set of three, $16.99.

Left, Trendig powder coated steel cabinet in a light green with red handles, $249. Middle, cotton fabrics in the Trendig collection are $19.99 per metre. Right, assorted dishes from the collection. ALL PHOTOS IKEA

Below, Trendig occasional table in clear lacquered birch and steel, $99.

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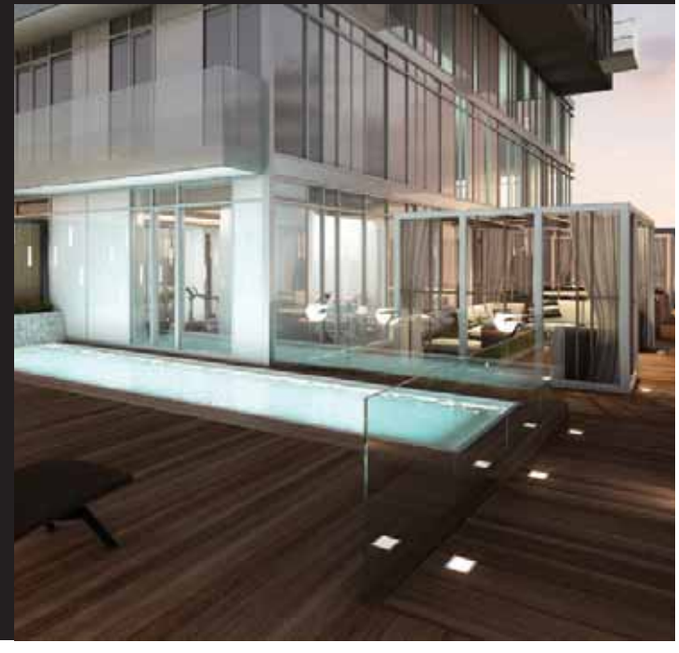

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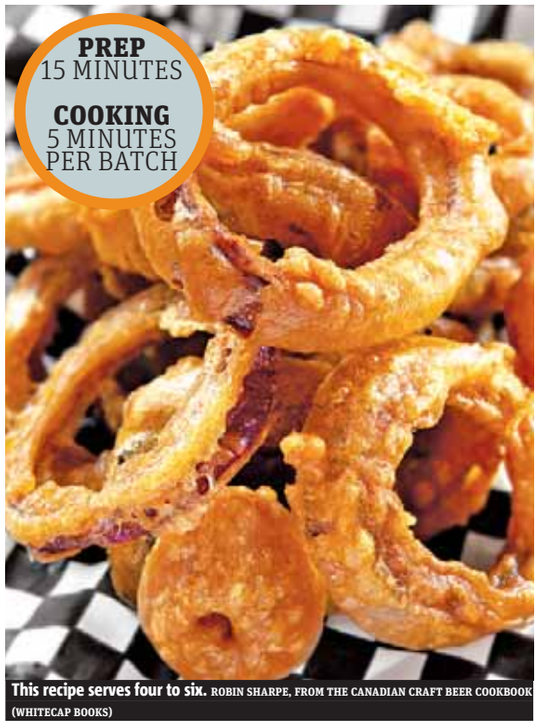


This recipe serves four to six. ROBIN SHARPE, FROM THE CANADIAN CRAFT BEER COOKBOOK (WHITECAP BOOKS)

"Compared to fries, when hand-dipped and made to order, onion rings are difficult for a restaurant to manage well," writes David Ort in The Canadian Craft Beer Cookbook. "I'll be honest that these aren't an everyday recipe for me, but if you're going to indulge, make sure you do it right.

"Surrounding hot slices of onion, the banana, orange and clove flavours in the witbier will brighten and concentrate. I use red onion for this recipe because I'm a bit of an oddball. Spanish onions are more traditional and are a good choice if you can't find a big enough (noticeably larger than your fist) red onion."

1. Lay out two cookie sheets and place a wire rack on each. This rig will work both for letting excess batter drip away and to cool the rings once they come out of the hot oil.

2. Set a Dutch oven over medium heat and fill with 2 inches (5 cm) of oil. Heat the oil to 375 F (190 C).

3. Pour the cold beer into a medium mixing bowl. Use a fine-mesh strainer to sift the flours into the beer. Add baking powder and salt, and mix to combine, but be careful not to overmix. Put slices of onion in a resealable bag or lidded container with the 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of rice flour and shake to coat the onion lightly.

4. Use tongs or chopsticks to transfer onion pieces from flour to batter and then to the racks set over the cookie sheets, where excess batter can drop off.

5. Carefully transfer the battered rings to the hot oil and continue to monitor the oil's temperature. Work in batches that are small enough to not crowd the pan. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes a side or until rings are deep golden brown. Hold cooked rings on a clean wire rack while you fry subsequent batches. Season the rings with fine sea salt immediately after they come out of the hot oil.

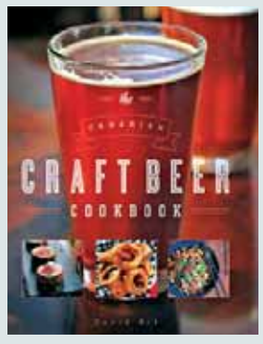
RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM THE CANADIAN CRAFT BEER COOKBOOK (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY DAVID ORT

Ingredients

- 5 cups (1.25 l) peanut or rice bran oil
- 1 cup (250 ml) witbier, cold
- 2 oz (60 g) all-purpose flour (about 1/2 cup/125 ml)
- 2 oz (60 g) rice flour (about 1/4 cup/80 ml) plus 2 tbsp (30 ml) for dusting rings
- 1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) fine sea salt
- 1 large red onion, cut into 3/4-inch (2 cm) slices

Cookbook of the Week

Cook and sip



Craft beer has soared in popularity and now David Ort offers an introduction to it and a broad range of recipes that use craft beer as an ingredient.

The Canadian Craft Beer Cookbook includes starters and snacks, noodle and rice dishes, seafood, meat and poultry; and even beer cocktails, sweets and desserts. Each recipe includes a recommendation for a specific Canadian craft beer as the beer ingredient.

Among the recipes are: Tabbouleh, Clam Chowder, Jerk Chicken, Brownies, and more. **METRO**

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CFL

Concussion forces Tsoumpas to retire early

The Calgary Stampeders found out on Thursday that they will have a big hole to fill on their offensive line.

After missing most of the 2013 season with a concussion he sustained in Week 7, offensive lineman Dimitri Tsoumpas decided to call it a career and accepted a job with the Stampeders as a strength and conditioning assistant.

"We've got a wealth of experts in Calgary in regards to concussions and upon discussing with them and looking at things down the road, I figured that it was probably the best decision towards the end of the year just noticing how long it was taking to come back and heal and feel better," said the 28-year-old Edmonton native, who the Stamps selected second overall in 2008.

Dimitri Tsoumpas
COURTESY CFL

"Sometimes throughout your career you get little dingers here and there and you tend to bounce back from them, but this one obviously took a while."

The four-time West Division all-star and three-time Canadian Football League all-star's time with the Stamps included 88 regular-season games, nine playoff contests and a Grey Cup title in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Humphries' humble beginning in bobsled

Learning to drive.
Reigning Olympic champion broke collarbone, knocked out a brakeman in early training

One of Kaillie Humphries' first trips down the bobsled run left her with a broken collarbone and an unconscious brakeman.

Good thing one of her greatest strengths is perseverance.

It was about a decade ago, and the reigning Olympic women's bobsled champ had just given up a ski racing career fraught with injuries to pursue bobsledding.

The crash happened on the last day of a learn-to-drive course at Calgary's Canada Olympic Park. Humphries — who, unbeknownst to many, actually began her sledding career as a driver — was piloting the sled. She had an experienced male sledder in back on the brakes.

Somewhere along the treacherous twisting ice track, Humphries flipped the sled, knocking the brakeman out cold and sending him sailing out the back end.

"Kaillie was yelling and screaming, 'Brake! Brake!' and she turned around and there wasn't anybody behind her," her mom Cheryl Simundson said. "So she reached over and pulled the brakes herself and stopped the sled."

It was a less-than-auspicious start, but some 12 years later, there's not a woman in the sport more dominant.

The 28-year-old from Calgary roared to Canada's first Olympic women's title four years ago in Vancouver with brakeman Heather Moyse, and went on to win the world championships in 2012 and 2013.

That broken collarbone sidelined Humphries for several months, and she returned at the tail end of that season as a brakeman.

But a heartbreaking trip to the 2006 Turin Olympics that saw Humphries sit out as an alternate was where "history was made," Simundson said.

She decided to return to driving.

"That's what made Kaillie decide 'I'm going to be in charge of my own destiny.' You look back and you think 'That was a blessing, it really was,'" Humphries' mom added.

Humphries and Moyse reunited this season with their sights on defending their Olympic title.

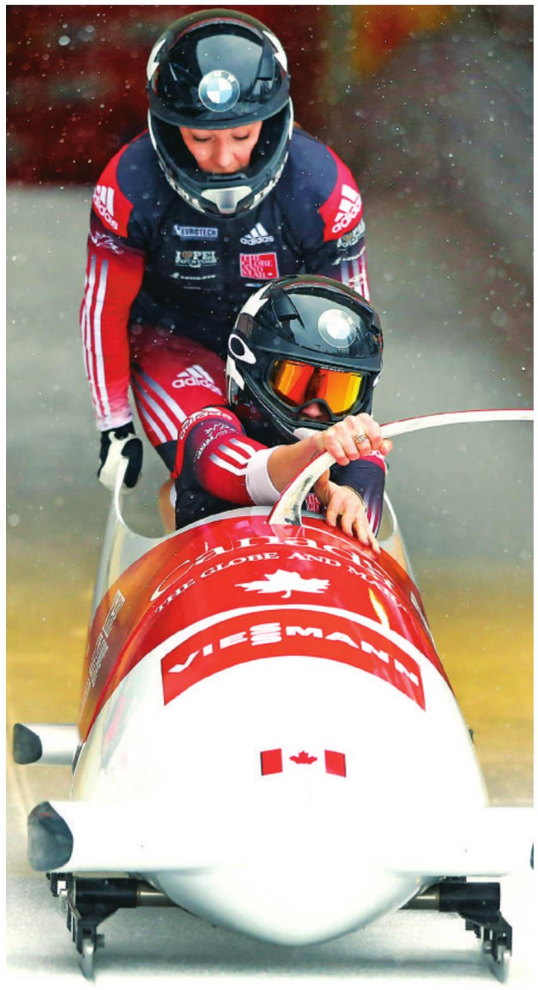
"No one in women's bobsleigh has ever repeated an Olympic title," Humphries said. "That's my goal, to go out and be the first one."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada

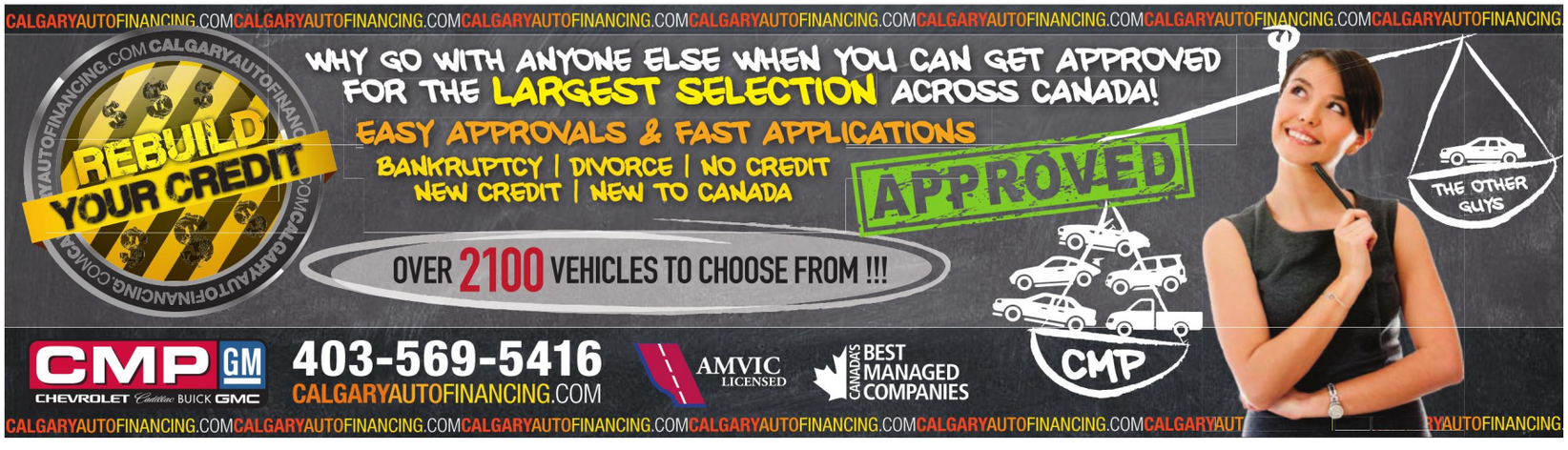
221

Canada will send 221 athletes to the Sochi Olympics, its largest ever team for a Winter Games.



Kaillie Humphries, front, and Heather Moyse start a run during a two-woman bobsled World Cup race in Koenigssee, Germany, on Sunday.
MATTHIAS SCHRADER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS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Calgary Flames head coach Bob Hartley shouts instructions to his team during a break in their game against the Jets at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg on November 18, 2013. MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

Hartley's record speaks for itself

THE HOCKEY NEWS
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Bob Hartley has done a lot of impressive things as he hit the 100-game mark as Flames coach. That should be enough to ensure he's back for at least another season in Calgary.

While the management team of Brian Burke and the future GM will make the ultimate decision this spring or summer, it would be sending a wrong message to the team if Hartley was dismissed. You would essentially be telling the players, "Look, we appreciate you guys bought into Hartley's plan, worked your tails off and did your best under re-building conditions, but that's not enough. Listen instead to the new guy."

With a handful of rare exceptions, the Flames have been a well-prepared group this season and are regarded league-wide as one of the hardest-working outfits on any given night. That's generally the case when there's a shortage of proven firepower, but it's also a feather in the cap for Hartley.

While a few of Hartley's executions have been baffling, his body of work as a whole is better than expected. His insistence on dressing a pair of enforcers on the fourth line every single game is archaic, but perhaps that's an edict from above.

It's unclear why he didn't run with Karri Ramo early in the season. Ramo had superior KHL credentials to Reto Berra, who played in the Swiss League. Mikael Backlund and Sven Baertschi were on short leashes from Day 1, but at least the skills and vision of Kris Russell and Sean Monahan were allowed to unfold.

Hartley rewards players who work hard and play a responsible two-way game. I'm sure given his druthers, he'd prefer a more refined lineup, but he has found a way to get this group working as a team. Watch him on the bench and you see a coach who expects to win every game, regardless of the opponent.

It would be interesting to see young players Monahan, T.J. Brodie and others mature under Hartley's insistence on a strong work ethic and creative play. But I'd also like to see Hartley be open-minded about unbroken talents such as Baertschi, Johnny Gaudreau and Emile Poirier.

Hartley's future shouldn't be determined by the big "W" you see in the NHL standings at the end of the season. It should instead be determined by all the little wins he's made along the way.

NHL

Rangers complete outdoor sweep

Daniel Carcillo scored the tiebreaking goal 4:36 into the third period, and the New York Rangers completed a two-game sweep of the outdoor series with a 2-1 win over the Islanders at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday. Building off their 7-3 win over New Jersey on Sunday, the Rangers took out another division rival in front of 50,027 fans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Scrivens, Oilers shut out Sharks

Ben Scrivens kicked out 59 shots in a spectacular performance that backstopped the Edmonton Oilers to a 3-0 victory Wednesday over the San Jose Sharks.

Justin Schultz, Jordan Eberle and Taylor Hall scored for Edmonton. It equalled the most shots ever given up by the Oilers. They surrendered 59 to the New York Rangers in a game in 1993. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

Raonic withdraws from Davis Cup

Milos Raonic has withdrawn from Canada's Davis Cup team with an ankle injury.

The Thornhill, Ont., native, who is ranked 11th in the world, had hoped he would be ready when Canada begins its World Group first-round tie against Japan in Tokyo on Friday. Raonic will be replaced by fellow Thornhill native Peter Polansky. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This will be an enjoyable day and it will be more enjoyable still if you don't waste time worrying what others might think about what you are doing — or who you're doing it with!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to ask a favour of someone in a position of authority, now is the time. Cosmic activity in the career area of your chart makes it easy for you to approach employers.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If others want to take control and decide what you are going to do together, you should let them. Today's new moon means you can afford to sit back and let partners make the difficult decisions.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Try to take things easy today because if you tire yourself out, physically or intellectually, it may take a while to recover. You don't need to be as intense as you usually are. Everything will turn out for the best no matter what you do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Whatever goals you set over the next few days, you will reach them with ease. But don't spend all your time and energy on work: This is potentially one of the best days of the year for affairs of the heart.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something you've worried about for weeks will resolve itself in your favour thanks to the new moon. There is a lesson: Nothing is ever worth getting too worked up about.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You can sense that something marvelous is going to happen over the next 24 hours but you don't know what it is. Whatever it is, make the most of it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No matter how badly someone may have let you down, forgive them. There is no point holding a grudge, not when there are so many wonderful things going on in the world.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You should be feeling more relaxed about life now and today's new moon will put you in the mood to go out and have fun with your friends. Partnerships and relationships will make you happier than you ever thought possible.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Lady Luck will smile on you today. Good things will come your way without you having to do very much at all to attract them. Having said that, don't give away any personal information and don't try too hard. Just let it happen.

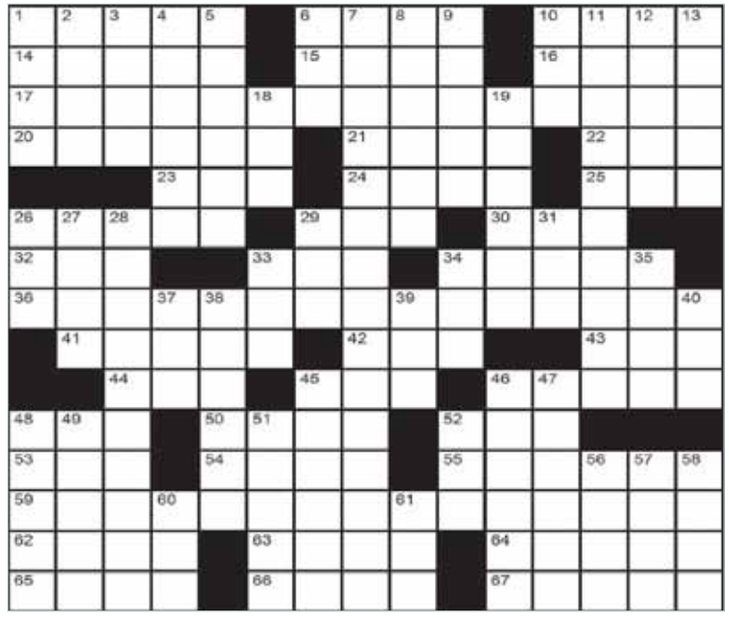
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today's new moon in your sign makes this the perfect time to start something you always wanted to do but never had the courage. Now you do — so get on and make it a success.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Why do you let doubts hold you back? You've got to be more ambitious and more adventurous. This could be the day when your life changes for the better — but only you can make it happen. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

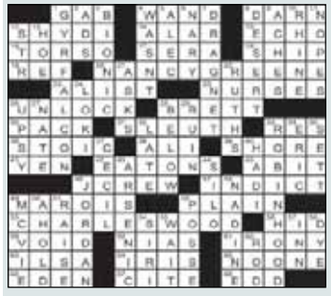
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ranching rope
6. "Cat on _ __ Tin Roof" (1958)
10. From square one
14. Angered
15. Michael of "Juno" (2007)
16. Way
17. The Purcells, for one: acr. + wd. + wd.
20. Postpone
21. Pick a politician
22. Nourished
23. 'Trick' suffix
24. Cosmology's original matter
25. Some badges, e.g.
26. No longer 'in'
29. Montreal Mrs.
30. Company name abbr.
32. Dadaist Jean
33. Defence contractor, with Systems
34. Bug varieties
36. Woodlands worry: 2 wds.
41. Stan's comedy partner, cute-style
42. Help
43. Poetic contraction
44. Test tube's li'l locale
45. Ctrl, Shift, __
46. Baseball Hall of Famer Mr. Sandberg's
48. Wane
50. Cutting remark
52. Racecar driver Mr. Fabi
53. Bovine's bellow
54. Sea wolf
55. NYC's infamous club, __ 54
59. Canadian ice dancing legends/ Olympians: 3 wds.
62. Eugene O'Neill play, __ Christie
63. "The King __ _" (1956)
64. Lucille Ball's co-star Desi
65. Many lipstick hues
66. Vocally vex
67. Like an annoying fly

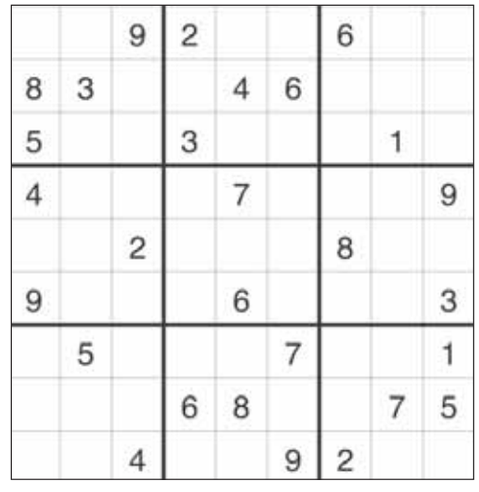
Down
1. Ad-__ (Improvises)
2. Curve
3. Equivalent
4. Shoulder scarves
5. Hors d'__
6. Perform
7. Anvil and Helix, for example: 3 wds.
8. Baltimore baseball player
9. Aunt, in Montreal
10. Simon & Garfunkel's "I __ _ Rock"
11. Book genre
12. Created by U2's guitarist?
13. Unwanted plants
18. Napoleonic Wars marshal
19. Doing that sleep state thing, say
26. __-Man
27. Folkie Mr. Guthrie
28. 1945 Ingrid Bergman/Gregory Peck thriller
29. Egyptian __ (Cat breed)
31. Bug
33. Pre-A.D. time alternative
34. "Oh, __!" (1977)
35. Snick-or-__
37. _ __ carte
38. Gift box decoration
39. English __.
40. Li'l weight units
45. Secrets to some
46. Capture all over again
47. Lionel Richie song that starts "Baby you'll find / There's only one love...": 2 wds.
48. Put into a cell
49. American frontiersman Daniel (b.1734 - d.1820)
51. Backward on the boat
52. "How naughty!"
56. Mr. Aykroyd's
57. "Take __ __ face value."
58. Sharon's rocker hubby
60. Univ. dorm supervisors
61. Dunk

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	2	9	6	4	5	1	7
7	4	6	5	1	2	3	9	8
1	9	5	3	7	8	4	6	2
5	7	3	8	4	6	1	2	9
9	6	8	2	5	1	7	3	4
2	1	4	7	9	3	6	8	5
3	5	7	6	8	9	2	4	1
6	8	1	4	2	5	9	7	3
4	2	9	1	3	7	8	5	6

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -16° MIN: -18°	MAX: -8° MIN: -17°	MAX: -8° MIN: -14°

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Bankers Hall

Bow Valley Square

Chinook Centre

The Core

Southcentre Mall

Westbrook Mall

Westhills Towne Centre

321 6th Ave. SW

2008 33rd Ave. SW

4623 Bow Trail SW

4825 Macleod Trail SW

6039 Centre St. S

Southeast

Deerfoot Meadows

Shepard Centre

1288 42nd Ave. SE

3012 17th Ave. SE

4410 50th Ave. SE

7845 Flint Rd. SE

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